



ST. JOSEPH

Catholic Church

Office of Religious Education

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August 29, 2019

Dear Families,

Welcome to the St. Joseph Religious Education Program!

It is great to be back and preparing for another year in our religious education program (CCD). We hope you have all had an enjoyable and safe summer. We look forward to growing in Christ with you and your family this year!

As you are well aware, communication will be vital throughout the year. Please check your email frequently as well as the parish website (stjosephpekin.org) and the parish bulletin regularly for announcements concerning the weekly classes, sacramental preparation and special events for your child.

Our mission in religious education is to collaborate with parents to form a new generation of Catholics who know and love Jesus Christ, living as his disciples in the community of the Catholic Church. Toward that end, we strive to offer a unified, solid and engaging religious education program.

While our children and youth will receive important formation in the parish religious education program, the Church strongly encourages all parents to walk closely with their children as they grow in knowledge and practice of the catholic faith.

- “Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.” (CCC #2226)
- The Christian family is the first place for education in prayer. (CCC #2694)
- “The parish... is called to be a fraternal and welcoming family where Christians become aware of being the people of God. ... It must however. Continue “to be the prime mover and pre-eminent place for catechesis.” (General Directory for Catechesis #257)

The first day of CCD will be on September 4th at 6:30. Classes are location in the St. Joseph School, please enter through the door of the parking lot. There will be a short mandatory parent meeting in the cafeteria of the school beginning at 6:30. The CCD schedule for the 2019-2020 school year will be available as well as the updated handbook. Your student is to attend this meeting with you and from there, Catechists will take you and your children up to their new classroom for a brief Parent/Teacher introduction to their class. This will be followed by a normal class so the students are expected to stay until 7:30. Parents are not expected to stay the whole time.

We invite all our families to participate in our parish, and give the children a sense of belonging and community. We want to help form your children in the faith and prepare them to face the challenges of the world with a deeper knowledge and love of God and His church.

Thank you for letting God lead you in the ways of your Catholic faith.

May this year be a time of grace & growth for all of us apart of our St. Joseph CCD family.

God Bless,

Anna McMahan

Director of Religious Education (D.R.E.)